

Appln No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated June 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5 and 9, and amend claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for responding to [[a site]] access ~~in which to~~ a service provider site for providing contents via a communication network in which the service provider site transmits, when an access request is made from a requesting terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, contents of the service provider site to the requesting terminal ~~in response to the access request, the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service provider site~~, the method comprising
5 the steps of:
10

storing user verification data and an identifier of the affiliation site, which is affiliated with the service provider site, in the service provider site;

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transmitting an access request from the affiliation site to
15 the service provider site with the identifier of the affiliation
site when the affiliation site receives an access request from
the requesting terminal;

determining whether ~~or not~~ the access request is made via
~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the access
20 request includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~ affiliation
~~[[sites]]~~ site;

changing a part of the contents to be transmitted to the
requesting terminal to predetermined information corresponding to
the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when the access request
25 is made via the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site;

transmitting the contents including the predetermined
information to the requesting terminal ~~[[to wait]]~~ and waiting
for a user verification request from the requesting terminal ~~[[to~~
start]] before starting service provision; and

30 storing user information of the requesting terminal relating
to the service provision into a session control table relating to
the ~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

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Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accumulating a service usage time of the service provider site when the access request is made via ~~one of~~ the affiliation sites; and

determining a charge based on the accumulated service usage time every predetermined period of time and conducting a charging procedure to an enterprise of ~~one of~~ the affiliation sites.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A service information providing method in which a service provider site provides via a communication network to a user terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, a service item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal, the access request including an identifier of the affiliation site, ~~the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service provider site~~, the method comprising the steps of:

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- 10 storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated
with the service provider site in the service provider site,
 providing to the user terminal a predetermined ~~contents~~
content corresponding to ~~[[a]]~~ the service item in response to
the access request designated by the user terminal;
- 15 receiving ~~[[a]]~~ response information relating to the
provided ~~contents~~ content from the user terminal via the
communication network and determining whether the ~~response~~
~~information~~ access request is transmitted from ~~one of~~ the
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the access request
20 includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~
site when a predetermined processing is to be performed with
regard to the response information; and
 performing the predetermined processing based on a result of
the determination.

 Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim
6, wherein said predetermined processing is a processing for
preparing an electronic mail in response to the response
information and transmitting the mail via the communication
5 network to another terminal which is different from the user
terminal, the electronic mail being transmitted to a terminal

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belonging to the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when the
response information is transmitted from the ~~one of the~~
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site and to a terminal belonging to the
10 service provider site when the response information is not
transmitted from the ~~one of the specific sites~~ affiliation site.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable
program code means embodied therein ~~[[and]]~~ for responding to ~~[[a~~
site]] access ~~in which~~ to a service provider site for providing
5 contents via a communication network in which the service
provider site transmits, when an access request is made from a
requesting terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the
service provider site, contents of the service provider site to
the requesting terminal ~~in response to the access request, the~~
10 ~~service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites~~
~~affiliated with the service provider site~~, the computer readable
program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for storing user
verification data and an identifier of the affiliation site,
15 which is affiliated with the service provider site;

computer readable program code means for transmitting an
access request from the affiliation site to the service provider

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site with an identifier of the affiliation site when the
affiliation site receives an access request from the requesting
20 terminal;

computer readable program code means for determining whether
~~or not~~ the access request ~~from the requesting terminal~~ is made
via ~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the
access request includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~
25 affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site;

computer readable program code means for changing a part of
the contents to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to
predetermined information corresponding to the ~~one of the~~
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when the access request is made via
30 the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site;

computer readable program code means for transmitting the
contents including the predetermined information to the
requesting terminal ~~to wait~~ and waiting for a user verification
request from the requesting terminal ~~to start~~ before starting
35 service provision; and

computer readable program code means for storing user
information of the requesting terminal relating to the service
provision into a session control table relating to the ~~one of the~~
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site.

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Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein ~~[[and]]~~ for providing, by a service provider site to a user terminal of an affiliation site
5 affiliated with the service provider site via a communication network, a service item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal, the access request including an identifier of the affiliation site, ~~the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service~~
10 ~~provider site,~~ the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site in the service provider site;

15 computer readable program code means for providing to the user terminal predetermined ~~[[contents]]~~ content corresponding to ~~[[a]]~~ the service item in response to the access request ~~designated by the user terminal;~~

20 computer readable program code means for receiving response information relating to the provided ~~contents~~ content from the user terminal via the communication network and determining

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whether the ~~response information access request~~ is transmitted from ~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~
25 affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when a predetermined processing is to be performed with regard to the response information; and
computer readable program code means for performing the predetermined processing based on a result of the determination.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A method of providing a home page of a service provider site and a home page of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider via a communication network, the method comprising:

5 storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site in the service provider site;
receiving, by the affiliation site, a request for the home page of the service provider from a user ~~[[by]]~~ of the affiliation site;
10 transferring, by the affiliation site, the request for the home page of the service provider to the service provider site with an identifier of ~~[[by]]~~ the affiliation site;
determining, by the service provider site, whether the user is a member of the affiliation site based on whether the request

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15 ~~includes the identifier of the affiliation site by the service
provider site; and~~

transmitting [[a]] the home page of the service provider to
the user by the service provider site when the user is a member
of the affiliation site.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The method according to
claim 11, wherein the service provider site receives the request
with an identifier indicating that the user is a member of the
affiliation site and determines whether the user is a member of
5 the affiliation site based on the identifier.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim
12, wherein the service provider site modifies the home page of
the service provider site based on the identifier of the
affiliation site when it is determined that the user is a member
5 of the affiliation site.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The method according to
claim 12, wherein the service provider site updates charging
information for the user and charges the affiliation site when it
is determined that the user is a member of the affiliation site.

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Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claims 16 (Cancelled).